

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 20-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 7 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are amended and claims 20-36 are added. Support for new claims 20-36 can be found in the specification including the original claims and figures, for example, see Figure 1 and page 28. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Dulude et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,966, hereinafter Dulude). Since claims 4 and 7 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of these claims is moot. Since Dulude fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Dulude fails to disclose or suggest, as recited in claim 1 from original claim 4 which depended therefrom, at least the feature of a user authentication system wherein two or more certification authorities dividedly record part of a biological individuality data obtained at the registration station, but not recorded in the user authentication card, and one certification authority compares the biological individuality data of the user input at the authentication access terminal with the part of the biological individuality data stored in the certification authority in response to inquiry from the authentication access terminal or other certification authority for further authentication.

As this feature was originally claimed in claim 4 (and claim 1 is not amended substantively otherwise), Applicant respectfully submits that should a new reference be applied, any new Office Action should be made non-final.

With respect to Dulude, Dulude merely discloses biometric certificates 38 being sent to be stored in a memory, such as a biometric database or a memory of a smart card, as shown as the memory 66 in Figure 5. See Dulude column 5, lines 33-35. Dulude specifically states that a registration 24 may be used, as illustrated in Figure 3, or alternatively, a smart card having a memory may be used. See Dulude column 5, lines 35-49. Therefore, Dulude fails to disclose or suggest dividedly recording biological individuality data, let alone dividedly recording the biological individuality data in two or more certification authorities where the biological individuality data is not recorded in a user authentication card. Rather, Dulude either records biometric certificates 38 in a biometric database or a memory of a smart card and does not disclose or suggest any motivation for dividing data as recited in claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as their added features and the combinations thereof. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. New Claims 20-36

By this Amendment, claims 20-36 are added to the application. Claims 20-36 broadly recite the features of the preferred embodiment(s). It is respectfully submitted that the new

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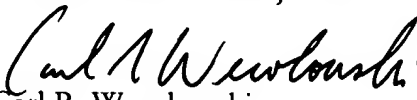
claims are also allowable over the references of record for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carl R. Wesolowski, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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